

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jones, Hefin](#)
Subject: PARISH COUNCIL ORAL SUBMISSION - OPEN FLOOR HEARING 22ND JULY 2019
Date: 29 July 2019 18:40:27
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Hefin,

Please find enclosed the oral submission from the Parish Council, delivered on 22/7/2019
by Alan Stewart,
Many thanks,
Lut Stewart

PARISH COUNCIL ORAL SUBMISSION – OFH 22/7/2019

Good evening – my name is Alan Stewart and I am here as the Chair of the local Parish Council to voice our strong opposition to this development and in doing so to express the ground swell of support and feedback we have received not only from our parishioners but those groups and individuals who live outside the Parish.

Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council represents those who will be most affected by this proposal, namely, the residents and businesses of the twin villages of Graveney and Goodnestone. As such, I am not proposing to repeat information and submissions which can be found elsewhere from organisations and individuals who are united in their opposition, but to provide a local perspective which can only be obtained from those living in the villages.

Graveney and Goodnestone have been settlements since the 9th Century and their existence predates the Domesday Book. Graveney is characterised by the flat expansive nature of its marshes. People choosing to live in Graveney do so because of the wide, open and remote landscape; a landscape which is becoming increasingly difficult to find in this area of the country. Graveney Marshes are well known locally and a haven for not only wildlife, but also those seeking solitude, peace and remoteness. Visitors to the area come because of these characteristics, not despite them. The installation of solar panels, covering the marshes at the density and height proposed would destroy the landscape and its attractiveness to residents and visitors. The applicant seems unaware, or perhaps dismissive, of the idea that such an open, expansive and wild landscape could be attractive and desirable, maintaining that the introduction of the extensive solar park infrastructure could even be seen as ‘beneficial’. As the locally elected representative body, we find this attitude not only wrong but disrespectful to those who see beauty in this landscape and have chosen to live here.

Graveney and Goodnestone are home to a number of ‘heritage assets’, including All Saints Church, Graveney Court and Sparrow Court which are integral to the fabric of the community. As residential properties, Graveney Court and Sparrow Court are in private ownership, but they remain important, historic 15th Century buildings within the village and their entitlement to protection and longevity is indisputable. This application would have a highly detrimental effect on their setting and thus heritage value. As a place of worship that has stood since the 12th Century, All Saints Church is more than just a heritage asset; it is history in material form and this medieval church has remained almost unaltered from its original design. Countless generations of local people, some of whom are still resident in the village, have worshiped and commemorated life events there. A place of worship is more than just a building, it has an atmosphere and a distinct character, and a large part of this is down to its setting. The installation of densely packed, elevated solar panels and screen planting on what is currently an open long-distance view will materially affect the setting of the church and therefore its character and what

makes it so valuable to the community. The applicants have tried very hard to downplay the significance of these assets and their unique settings and it is important to note that the assessment in their own heritage report is at variance not only with the report commissioned by the Graveney Rural Environment Action Team but also some of the fundamental conclusions reached by Historic England.

Graveney and Goodnestone already have experience of a large scale construction scheme, when the London Array substation was constructed over the period 2009 -2012 to serve the off shore wind farm This project caused untold disruption to the villages, with increased traffic generally, as well as a large number of HGVs travelling through the villages to reach the construction site. The verges were damaged, in many cases permanently, and the roads suffered under the weight and volume of traffic. Graveney and Goodnestone have narrow roads with the two mile primary route to the construction site having many width restrictions and blind bends , where it is often difficult for two cars to pass safely, let alone HGVs. The hump backed railway bridge in the centre of the village is already a bottleneck, with poor visibility on the approach to the school, and its junction with Sandbanks Lane. The road is part of a National Cycle Route and is very popular with cyclists. The idea of another, larger, infrastructure project being constructed in Graveney with significantly higher heavy vehicle movements is unthinkable. The management of the HGV movements through the village would be a logistical nightmare and would leave residents , many of whom are elderly, unable to travel at will and subject to the inconvenience, disruption and noise caused by huge volumes of heavy traffic travelling throughout most of the day for six days every week during the lengthy construction period. We have not yet been presented with any credible traffic management plan for scrutiny.

In conclusion, Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council cannot stress enough the highly detrimental and permanent effect this application would have on our Parish if it were to be approved. After the experiences of the London Array project we really felt that lightning could not strike twice but some seven years later we are faced with the prospect of this massive development which would destroy the historic legacy of the villages , the marshes and the well being of the community.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Alan Stewart

Chair – Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council